

**Graduate Student Association for the Arts & Sciences**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**February 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

**I.Welcome**

Presiding Officer: President, Holly Gruntner  
All officers and all elected departmental reps present  
22 in attendance in total

**II.Public comment**

No Public Comment

**III.Elections**

- A. Nomination and election of GSAB Rep. for the Sciences - Felipe Ortega nominated  
Vote held: Felipe Ortega instated as GSAB Rep.
- B. Applied Sciences Rep. needed – Spenser Wood nominated by Holl  
Other nominations solicited, none put forth  
Vote held: Spenser Wood instated as Applied Sciences Rep.

**IV.Photo for the website**

Screen shot of Zoom meeting taken for website

**V.Officer's reports**

- . A. President, Holly Gruntner
  - 1. Results of planning meeting
    - Discussions oriented around survey results
    - Main points from survey: access to funding, better communication from OGSR, concerns about finishing research on time, increasing isolation and anxiety, grad students feel like after thoughts in communications
    - Funding and community building/mental health were chosen as our important foci this semester, as well as DEI's Peer Mentoring Program
  - 2. Updates from Dean Velleca advisory group:
    - Do we want another Town Hall?
    - NTE Non-renewals: a small number had their renewals approved (after initially being non-renewed).
  - 3. Union Notes:
    - Possible Socially Distanced Union Rally or Teach-In to continue discussion of NTE firings – Rally, if held, will take place in Wren Yard Friday 2/12
    - Union is encouraging Teaching Assistants s to use this [background](#) to protest NTE firings and support vulnerable faculty
  - 4. Grad Council SA Bill update
  - 5. COVID-19 vaccine update
    - GSA is working on an email for information about grad student positions in vaccine allocations
    - In the meantime, go to the Virginia Department of Health website to learn more about the vaccine and register for one.
  - 6. Research funding update

- History, American Studies, and Anthropology students transitioning into their 6<sup>th</sup> year will be given an additional funding in light of COVID complications
- A. Vice President, Tomos Evans
- Spring elections – Consider running for a GSA position
- B. Treasurer, Justin Cammarota
- No treasurer’s report
  - Journal Club might shift to entirely remote (TBD)
  - Apply to present at JC
- C. Secretary, Taylor Triplett
- Future meetings: March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>
- D. Parliamentarian, Zeke Wertz
- E. SA Rep, Chardé Reid
- GSA needs to decide whether to support the [Grad Council SA Bill](#); please read it and let Chardé know if you have thoughts (DO NOT SUGGEST EDITS IN THE DOC)
  - Dean Velleca came to the last SA meetings and discussed the NTE Firings
  - SA meetings are recorded, so watch them if you want details on the last meeting (or any other)
  - Chardé interested in drafting a bills to procure funding for the Mentorship Program.
- F. Social Chair, Phillip Emmanuel
- Good GSA turnout at coffeehouse; scheduling another one for a future Saturday.
- G. GSAB Rep, Alexandra Macdonald
- Next GSAB meeting tentatively scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>
- H. Journal Club, Justin Cammarota
- Journal Club might shift to entirely remote (TBD)
  - Apply to present at JC
- I. Department Reps  
No Comment

#### **VI. DEI Committee updates - Tomos, Phillip**

- DEI met earlier this week
- The Peer to Peer Mentorship Program is progressing –
- **GSA Members should review Peer Mentorship documents.**
- Spread the word, as DEI is on track to call for mentors next week.

#### **VII. Open floor**

No Comment

#### **VIII. Meeting adjourned**

##### **Action Items:**

- **Sending emails to health center and counseling center about grad-specific issues**
- **Helping with the Mentorship program (drafting an SA Bill with Chardé and/or reviewing Peer Mentorship program documents and lending a hand with launch)**
- **Drafting inquiries for vaccine emails**
- **Review Grad Council SA Bill**